

Figure 1. Two of five interns from Mandalay and Myeik Universities who studied aspects of ecotourism at the CSO 'Destination Ayeyarwady' as part of the MuEuCAP internship programme (WP5.3)



Ninth Quarterly Newsletter (WP7.3): (1 February 2020 – 31 April 2020)
comprising 9th Quarterly Progress Report (WP6.3)
Finalised in BOKU

Summary of Activities of the MuEuCAP Project (1 February 2020 – 31 April 2020): This started as a very active and productive period for the MuEuCAP project. However, after the Covid-19 outbreak was internationally recognised in March 2020, travel restrictions were introduced between EU and Myanmar, and universities (together with society) went into lockdown. Highlights of the 9th Quarter included:

- One internship involving five students working with the Myanmar-based NGO, Destination Ayeyarwady. This was the last of four internships, which took place in 2019/2020.
- A training workshop in Myeik University (2-10 March, 2020) – focused on practical testing of curriculum (WP 3); training to improve skills and competences (WP 2.8.1); evaluation of internships (WP5.3); outreach and communication (WP7).

Internship: One internship programme took place during the 9th Quarter of the project. Five students undertook a 20-day internship with 'Destination Ayeyarwady' - <https://www.destination-ayeyarwady.com/>.

As has been previously noted, interns were selected on the basis of their CV, motivation letter and an interview by members of the Steering Committee (comprising Myanmar and European university staff). Once selected they were kept informed of their responsibilities by regular updates with their respective NGOs and via the Downloads page (Item 20 - <https://www.myanmar-edu.org/downloads>) of the MuEuCAP website).

This internship focused on giving the five students, two from the University of Mandalay and three from Myeik University experience of practical and theoretical aspects of:

- ecotourism – with a visit to ‘Destination Ayeyarwady’, an ecotourism destination on the Ayeyarwady River, 60 km north of Mandalay – the destination focuses on the conservation of the critically endangered Irrawaddy River dolphin (*Orcaella brevirostris*), supporting the traditional culture of the fishing community, and poverty alleviation
- teaching about environmental protection in two schools – one in Hsithe village and one in the town of Tongyi
- community-led environmental protection – students undertook a study in the remarkable village of Sinnetchaung in the Shan Hills that is committed to the elimination of plastic waste and other waste from the village and its environs
- field studies of bats – training from a global expert, Dr Pipat Soisook, who works regularly with Destination Ayeyarwady – the field study was based in the Shan Hills and included mist-netting and harp traps – also camera traps for larger mammals.



Figure 2. Aspects of the internship with Destination Ayeyarwady. Above: Study of community-led environmental protection in Sinnetchaung village. Middle: teaching about environmental protection in Hsithe village school. Bottom left: learning about community-made, environmental friendly handicrafts in Hsithe village; Bottom right: practical training in surveying for bats in the Shan Hills.

Students participating in internship at Destination Ayeyarwady

7 February, 2020 -26 February, 2020

Ms Khin Moh Moh Tun – Zoology, University of Mandalay

Ms May Myat Noe – Zoology, University of Mandalay

Ms Pann Mo Mo – Marine Science, Myeik University

Ms May Zune Thein – Marine Science, Myeik University

Ms Phyu Phyu Thin – Marine Science, Myeik University

Each student wrote a report and a diary of day to day activities on completion of their internship (these are available on request). The three students from Myeik University made a presentation at the MuEuCAP workshop in Myeik University (2-10 March, 2020). Instructions for these presentations were published on the Downloads page (Item 24 - <https://www.myanmar-edu.org/downloads>) of the MuEuCAP website). Those from the University of Mandalay will make their presentations at a future date.



Figure 3. Students and staff participating in the workshop in Myeik University (2-10 March 2020)

Myeik workshop: Between 2-10 March 2020, the practical testing of the curriculum and a series of trainings were performed in Myeik University. Thirty-eight staff and students from Myeik, Mawlamyine and Mandalay Universities, together with six EU staff from the universities of Göttingen (Germany), Extremadura (Spain) and BOKU (Austria) took part.

EU attendees of Myeik workshop

- i: BOKU – 3 attendees: Dr Marcela Suarez-Rubio, Dr Swen Renner, and Dr Paul Bates
- ii: Gottingen University: Dr Lutz Fehrmann
- iii: University of Extremadura: Dr Martina Ferraguti and Dr Sergio Magallanes

Myanmar attendees of Myeik Workshop

- i: Myeik University - 27 attendees: Aung Aung Aye, Aye Aye Myint, Hlaing Sabai Phway, Khin Hla Win, Khin Mar Yee, Khin Swe Oo, Kyaw Yadanar Win, May Zune Thein, Mg Min Thant Kyaw, Mi Mi Lay, Ne Nan Nandar Nwe, Ohnmar Shwe, Pann Mo Mo, Phyu Phyu Thin, Sandar Lin, Saw Myat Ohnmar, Saw Bone Myat Linn, Saw Yu Nandi, Shwesin May, Shweyi Win Htun, Thandar Aye, Thi Mar Win, Thin Lae Lae Wai, Wah Wah Soe, Yin Yin Mya, Zin Lin Khine, Zin Mar Win.
- ii: Mawlamyine University - 4 attendees: Aung Myo San, Htet Htet Lin, Naw Zarchi Lin, Mie Mie Sein.
- iii: University of Mandalay – 7 attendees: Aye Khet Soe, Kyu Kyu Mar, Nay Myo Hlaing, Sabae Oo, Soe Soe Aung, Thant Zin, Zin May Khaing.

The workshop's primary aims were;

- to improve hard, soft and transversal skills
- to carry out follow-up training in EIA (WP2.8.1)
- to carry out follow-up training in Scientific Writing (WP2.8.1)
- to perform the practical testing of two core courses of the curriculum - Statistical methods for environmental protection (BioCEP-621) and Methods in Biodiversity Conservation and Environmental Protection (BioCEP-614; WP 3).

The workshop was subdivided into 4 mini-workshops, namely:

- (1) the practical testing of the curriculum, including evaluation of the staff trained in BOKU (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna) & UGOE (University of Göttingen, Germany) in respect of their uptake of skills and competences
- (2) Presentation and evaluation of internships (WP5.3, WP6.5, 6.6)
- (3) Training in Outreach and Communication in Science (WP 7.5.2)
- (4) Follow-up training in EIA – Environmental Impact Assessment (BioCEP-612) and training of hard skills and transferable skills - Scientific writing (BioCEP-622) (WP2.8.1)



Figure 4. Ms Phyu Phyu Thin of Myeik University presenting to the workshop as part of training in hard and transferable skills - Scientific writing (WP2.8.1): the workshop aimed to 'flip the class' ensuring that the majority of presentations were by Myanmar staff and students.

Practical testing of individual core courses (of the curriculum) (WP3.1)

Six staff that went to one of the European universities for the specialised training, each prepared one 50 minute lecture on a topic within the courses listed below:

1. "Statistical methods for environmental protection" (BioCEP621)
2. "Methods in Biodiversity Conservation and Environmental Protection" (BioCEP614).

The lecture included short interactive activities with the students as a way to implement some of the active-learning outcomes. In the case of BioCEP621, after the lecture, the staff prepared a practical example using R. The staff focused on correlation and regression. After the teaching session, students, MUP staff and EUP staff provided feedback, not only on the content of the lecture, but also on the teaching method. This activity was found by the teaching staff to be very useful and encouraging. Where necessary, teaching materials were improved and/or further developed.



Figure 5. (Left): Ms Thin Lae Lae Wai presenting about aspects of her internship at FFI; (Right): Ms Pann Mo Mo presenting on her internship with Destination Ayeyarwady. All staff and students featured here are from Myeik University.

Presentation of the internship students (WP5.3)

Ten students from Myeik University who had taken part in internships with one of four NGOs each gave a 15 minute presentation. The aim of the presentations was to share their experiences and learned outcomes, from the 20 day programmes. The experience and activities varied according to the NGOs, which comprised:

- FFI (Fauna and Flora International, Myanmar) – Ms Ne Nan Nandar Nwe, Ms Saw Yu Nandi, Ms Mi Nwe Ni Aung, and Ms Thin Lae Lae Wai
- MBNS (Myanmar Bird and Nature Society) – Ms Zin Mar Win and Ms Shweyi Win Htun
- FOW (Friends of Wildlife) – Mr Min Kant Kyaw
- Destination Ayeyarwady – Ms Pann Mo Mo, Ms Phyu Phyu Thin, and Ms May Zune Thaing.

The topics covered were many and varied and included:

- practical skills in the field – camera trapping, radio telemetry, bat and bird survey techniques
- environmental education in communities and in schools
- community-based conservation
- learning about community-based waste management
- ecotourism – practical and theoretical elements
- learning how to write reports, grant applications and presentations.

Training in Outreach and Communication in Science (WP7.5.2)



Figure 6. Following her training in the University of Extremadura (WP6.5/6.6), Ms Saw Myat Ohnmar presented on aspects of Scientific communication and outreach (WP7.5.2) in the Myeik University workshop.

Following her training in the University of Extremadura (WP6.5/6.6), Ms Saw Myat Ohnmar (Department of English) presented to the workshop on aspects of Scientific communication and outreach (WP7.5.2). As part of her lecture, she looked at both the theory and practical application of communication/outreach. She focused on why it is important to promote the scientific work of the university to a wide and disparate audience and on how to deliver a relevant message in a relevant format. She presented practical examples, which she had designed, developed and produced, of a flyer, website

<https://www.myeik-uni-international.org/> and

Youtube video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e2GklHdmu8Y>. Subsequently, after the completion of the workshop, she delivered the lecture again to senior staff of the Ministry of Education in Nay Pyi Daw.

Follow-up training in EIA (BioCEP612) (WP2.8.1)

Led by Dr Swen Renner, the workshop focused and revised a previously developed EIA example; new, additional examples were also developed:

- (1) silver mining in the Naung Mung Township
- (2) small scale mining
- (3) eco-lodge/hotel development in Myeik Archipelago
- (4) seabass cage farming in Myeik Archipelago.



Figure 7. Dr Swen Renner (BOKU) delivered follow-up training in EIA (WP2.8.1).

In addition, the syllabus was discussed and finalised. Lastly, supporting material and relevant materials for the new course have been concatenated.

Training of hard skills and transferable skills: Scientific writing (BioCEP622) (WP2.8.1)

Staff and students were introduced to how to write scientific texts. Discussion was focused on the different sections of scientific papers and what information should be included in each of these sections. The group was divided in small groups, each of them focusing on one of the main sections (introduction, methods, results and discussion). They prepared a lecture and then presented it to the whole group. Once it was clear to all what and how to write, the groups were again divided in small groups to work on one manuscript that they had selected previously. They edited the text with the help of their peers and EU staff.

Discussion with staff in charge to buy the equipment

The requirements, procedures and regulations for buying the equipment were clarified. MUP contact persons agreed to buy the equipment ASAP and include it in the University's inventory. Stickers were designed, ordered and distributed.



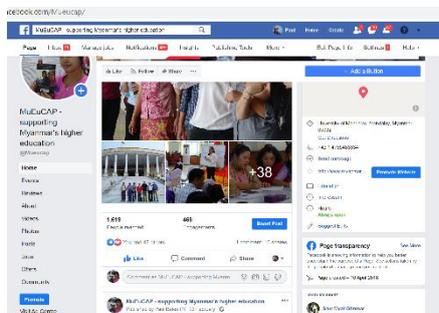
Figure 8. Above: Senior staff of the Myanmar universities together with the Project coordinator and manager finalise details for equipment purchases. Left: Stickers being made for MuEuCAP equipment.



Accreditation process

Prof Than Zin (University of Mandalay) and Pro-rector Mie Mie Sein (Mawlamyine University) together with the Project Coordinator and Project Manager discussed the following steps for the accreditation of the curriculum. In June 2020 the Board of Studies (BoS) will meet to discuss again the curriculum. The text of the curriculum was amended based on the previous suggestions by the BoS.

Conclusion: Although this was a long workshop, with different types of sub-workshops, all staff and students of the group, successfully overcame the adversities of language, and methodology. Staff managed to give lectures to their peers, received criticism, and presented their materials clearly, and answered the questions of the other attendees in a correct way. The student that took part of the internship have grown in knowledge, experience and are now eager to give presentations. They are no longer shy to present in front of others. For the above-mentioned reasons, we consider that the objectives of this workshop were successfully achieved, since it was a bidirectional source of professional and personal learning.



Outreach – the March 2020 workshop was reported on the MuEuCAP Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Mueucap/> with a reach of 1619, an engagement of 468, and 49 likes. In addition, it was very widely reported on the Facebook pages of the Myanmar staff and students who attended.

Figure 8.. Facebook post concerning the Myeik workshop - <https://www.facebook.com/Mueucap/>

Summary of Progress

Indicators predicted:

- Training to improve academic and technical skills and competences (WP2.8.1)
- Approval and accreditation process follow-up Board of Studies) (WP2.5)
- Training in quality assurance (WP2.8.1)
- Practical testing of individual courses (WP3.1)
- Evaluation of uptake and skills and competences of students and staff (WP3.2)
- EUPs assess practical testing outcomes (WP3.3)
- Internships of students at NGO/CSO (WP5.3)
- Quarterly progress reports written and circulated to Steering Committee (WP6.3)
- Evaluation of curriculum content, uptake of skills and competences, and specialised training (WP6.5)
- Evaluation and report of activities (internships, alumni talks, EU visits (WP6.6)
- Website updated (WP7.1.1)
- Social media channels updated (WP7.1.2)
- Promotional videos (WP7.2)
- Quarterly project newsletter written (WP7.3)
- Communication with public/media (WP7.4)
- Training staff in outreach (WP7.5)
- Communication with all partners) (WP8.3).

Indicators reached:

- Training to improve academic and technical skills and competences (WP2.8.1) took place at the Myeik workshop, especially with EIA and Scientific Writing
- Following discussions with senior Myanmar staff, and taking into account the Board of studies initial comments on the first submission, a revised BioCEP (Biodiversity conservation and Environmental protection) curriculum was finalised for submission in June 202 (WP2.5)
- Training in quality assurance (WP2.8.1)
- Practical testing of individual courses (WP3.1) took place when 6 Myanmar staff that had attended training in Europe gave 50 minute presentations on:
 - o Statistical methods for environmental protection (BioCEP-621)
 - o Methods in biodiversity conservation and environmental protection (BioCEP-614)
- Evaluation of uptake and skills and competences of students and staff (WP3.2) took place during the Myeik workshop
- EUPs assess practical testing outcomes (WP3.3) – interactive discussions concerning the presentations of the six Myanmar staff (see above)
- Internships of students at NGO/CSO (WP5.3) – five students from Mandalay and Myeik Universities took part in an internship with Destination Ayeyarwady; ten students from Myeik University who had taken part in all internships presented on their experiences during the March workshop in Myeik University
- Eighth quarterly progress reports written and circulated to Steering Committee (WP6.3), posted on the MuEuCAP website at <https://www.myanmar-edu.org/downloads>
- Evaluation of curriculum content, uptake of skills and competences, and specialised training (WP6.5) was undertaken both in relation to the Myanmar staff who had been trained in Europe and the students who had undertaken internships
- Evaluation and report of activities on internships and EU visits took place; there were no alumni talks (WP6.6)
- Website (WP7.1.1) is regularly updated at www.myanmar-edu.org with valuable 'downloads' added regularly to the 'downloads' page at <https://www.myanmar-edu.org/downloads>.

- Social media channels updated (WP7.1.2)
- Promotional videos (WP7.2)
- Eighth quarterly project newsletter was written (WP7.3) and posted on MuEuCAP website at <https://www.myanmar-edu.org/downloads>. It is based on the 8th Quarterly Report (WP6.3)
- Communication with public/media (WP7.4)
- Training staff in outreach (WP7.5), with a presentation made at the Myeik University workshop in March 2020
- Communication with all partners (WP8.3).